(iii) The repetition rate has decreased from 24% in 2002 to 18.62% in 2005 (5.38% decrease).

(iv) The drop-out rate has been reduced from 12% to 3.82% (8.19% decrease).

(v) The attendance rate has improved from 91 % in 2002 to 96% in 2005 (5% increase)

(vi) Around 4.5 lakh out-of-school children have been brought into the mainstream school system during the last four years.

(b) The State's target of cent per cent literacy is by 2015.

**Recruitment of Punjabi teachers**

3808. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Punjabi language under the scheme of recruitment of language teachers;

(b) the number of Punjabi teachers appointed in each State;

(c) the proposals pending in his Ministry; and

(d) the steps Government would take in these States for teaching Punjabi Language considering the fact that Punjabi is second language in Delhi and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Under the scheme of financial assistance for "Appointment of Language Teachers", there is a provision for recruitment of teachers of Modern Indian Languages including Punjabi, to teach the third language in those schools of the Hindi speaking States/UTs that demand them.

(b) No Punjabi teachers have been appointed under the scheme in any of the State.

(c) No proposal for appointment of Punjabi teachers is pending in the Ministry.

(d) It is for the State Governments to send proposals for appointment

of Punjabi teachers in their States as per the provisions of the existing scheme.

**Malnutrition among children**

3809. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: SHRI C. PERUMAL

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5-7 crore children are suffering from malnutrition in the country according to a report submitted by UNICEF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 50 per cent of urban children suffer from malnutrition;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken to contain the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the extent of malnutrition among children under 3 years of age declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 47% in 1998-99. As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition", brought out in May, 2006,57 million under-five children are underweight in India. In working out this number, UNICEF appears to have taken the percentage (47%) mentioned in NFHS-1998-99.

(c) and (d) UNICEF Report does not contain any observation with regard to malnutrition amongst urban children in India. However, as per National Family Health Survey (1998-99), one-third children in urban areas are underweight.

(e) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. Government of India is implementing through various Ministries/Departments, several programmes which, directly or indirectly, improve nutritional status of children. These programmes include:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) Reproductive & Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);